

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04526 231450Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 /028 W

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R 231017Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1647

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4526

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, US, SA, SO

SUBJ: TRANSFER OF MAP F-5A'S AND B'S

REF : A. JIDDA 3950; B. TEHRAN 5519; C. STATE 146725

1. DURING CALL ON MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRINCE SAUD BINNUAISAL JUNE 22, CHARGE' ASKED PRINCE IF USG MIGHT PROCEED WITH ROUTINE OVERFLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS FOR NINE EARLY MODEL F-5'S FOR ETHIOPIA. HE TOLD PRINCE THAT WE WERE CONSCIOUS OF SHARED SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE RED SEA, AND BELIEVED IT IN OUR COMMON INTEREST TO MAINTAIN WESTERN TIES AND INFLUENCE ON THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN ETHIOPIA. REQUEST FOR OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES MOREOVER COULD BE HANDLED AS STRAIGHTFORWARD AIR NAVIGATION MATTER, WITHOUT REQUIRING ANY OFFICIAL COMMENT OR POSITION FROM THE SAG.

2. PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT EARLIER MILITARY OVERFLIGHT REQUESTS TO SEND AMMUNITION TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN DENIED, AND HE DID NOT SEE HOW THE POLITICS OF THE PRESENT REQUEST DIFFERED SO MUCH FROM THE EARLIER ONE. CHARGE' WENT OVER ARGUMENTATION AGAIN, AND NOTED THAT THE SENSITIVITY AND PROMINENCE OF ACTUAL MUNITIONS SHIPMENTS WAS OBVIOUS, AND WAS RECOGNIZED MOREOVER IN INTERNATIONAL OVERFLIGHT REGULATIONS. OVERFLIGHT BY A SMALL NUMBER OF EARLY MODEL F-5'S HOWEVER WOULD SIMPLY BE PART OF THE MANY THOUSANDS OF AIR MOVEMENTS OVER AND
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ACROSS SAUDI ARABIA EACH MONTH.

3. PRINCE SAUD SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS QUESTION SOON WITH
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND WOULD LET EMBASSY KNOW.
HORAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 23 JUN 1975
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